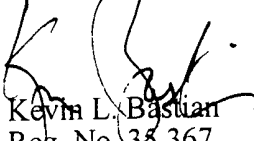


NOBORI *et al.*
Application No.: 09/780,114
Page 3

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin L. Bastian
Reg. No. 35,367

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (415) 576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300
KLB:dmw
SF 1281795 v1